



# ROAR!

**RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS**

**CFCSD Dates To Remember:**

- Sept. 3 *No School - Labor Day*  
All Schools, All Day
- Sept. 5 *Regular BOE Meeting*  
CFHS Library, 6:00pm
- Sept. 21 *No School - Teacher PD Day*  
All Schools, All Day

*Need more info? Check out [cfalls.org](http://cfalls.org)*

*A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements*

*Early September 2018*



As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we welcome all staff, students, and parents back for what we hope is a very exciting year! We hope your summer was productively relaxing and you are rejuvenated as we find ourselves engaged in the familiar routines of academics, activities, and athletics.

The 2018-2019 school year is the fifth year of the five-year strategic plan, CF Vision 20/20. We will continue to focus on the areas of College and Career Readiness, Culture of Excellence, Community Engagement, and Facilities and Resource Leveraging.

In terms of College and Career Readiness, we plan to continue to use NWEA MAP assessments along with common formative assessments to help us close the achievement gap experienced by some of our subgroups. We also plan to work with pre-school providers to implement new strategies to increase kindergarten readiness. Lastly, we would provide more strategies to help our students make the transition to post-secondary education with a special emphasis on increasing participation in two-year degree programs.

In terms of Culture of Excellence, we invested a great deal of time and energy during the 2017-2018 school year in the development of a district-wide positive behavior, intervention, and supports (PBIS) program that we will implement during the 2018-2019 school year with consistency and

fidelity. Certainly, the goal is to increase positive behaviors, attendance rate, and academic performance. For the program to be as successful as possible, we will need to engage booster groups, the business community, and other systems of support.

Insofar as Community Engagement, there will be ample opportunities to become involved. Each building will host their usual events and will establish a specific Community Engagement Committee in an effort to increase attendance and participation at these well-planned events. This being the fifth year of the five-year strategic plan, we will need to develop a new five-year strategic plan. We anticipate the commencement of this effort in the late fall of 2018. One of the first stages in the development of the new strategic plan will coincide with our Master Facilities Planning process into which educational visioning will be embedded. For these efforts to be truly successful, it will be essential to have community participation. To date, we have identified several individuals who have expressed interest; however, the strategic planning process will be intentionally invitational.

As mentioned above, our work in the area of Facilities and Resource Leveraging includes the development of a new master facilities plan by April 2019 with a goal of being on the November 2019 ballot for a combination levy of new buildings and additional operating revenues. With the seemingly unending tenuous financial forecast, we are voluntarily participating in a comprehensive performance audit with the Auditor of State's office. The goal of the audit will be to identify cost savings and/or additional revenue opportunities. Enrollment plays a significant role in the total revenue. As such, we will attempt to reduce the number of students who transfer from the District (open enrollment – out, community schools, etc.) by way of active communication and correspondence. Lastly, our staff has significantly increased their ability to write and receive grants. We will continue to increase the capacity of our staff in the writing of grants to provide innovative programming.

With all of this activity, the school year will likely be very busy and move very quickly. We hope everyone continues to be engaged as we attempt to provide the very best for the students of Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## CFHS Fresh Farm Update

Last year you may recall our article about the CFHS Fresh Farm project. According to CFHS Intervention Specialist and one of the faculty organizers, Steve McIntosh, "In total, we have harvested almost 300lbs of food, donating 280lbs

of it to Good Neighbors in Cuyahoga Falls thus far." Now that school is in session, there are plans to move some of the donations from Good Neighbors to CFHS students who are in need. They are also planning on selling some of the harvest in order to keep this program sustainable for years to come.

Over the summer there were approximately 15 students and ten teachers that helped maintain and pick the produce that was grown. Another benefit of having this garden is that different teachers at CFHS will now be able to use the garden as an extension of the classroom for various lessons and projects.



## Show Your Black Tiger Pride!

As a part of the CFCSD's goal to embrace all newly enrolled students to the District, *Black Tiger Pride* signs are free and available to kindergarten parents and students who register at central office. A limited number of these signs are also available at the main office of each of the schools throughout the District.

# PBIS: “Catch Them Doing Good!”



## BLACK TIGER PRIDE

**BE RESPECTFUL  
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY  
PRACTICE SAFETY**

BE RESPECTFUL • TAKE RESPONSIBILITY • PRACTICE SAFETY



*Pictured above is the banner that can be seen at the entrances of the school buildings. Posters with lists of expectations for various areas in the school are also present.*

As you enter our schools in the CFCSD, you will notice new banners and posters that line the halls and classrooms that promote Black Tiger Pride (BTP) as a part of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. The PBIS initiative was implemented to significantly decrease the already dwindling amounts of discipline incidents within the Cuyahoga Falls City School District.

According to its website ([pbis.org](http://pbis.org)), PBIS is the “Implementation framework

for maximizing the selection and use of evidence-based prevention and intervention practices along a multi-tiered continuum that supports the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of all students.”

The general idea behind the PBIS initiative is for the District’s teachers and staff to set expectations and provide positive reinforcement when students meet those expectations – to “Catch Them Doing Good.” One of the main goals is to establish a positive culture throughout the District without using threats of discipline. That being said, students are still held accountable when the outlined expectations are not being met.

In order for the District to be able to fund the design and production of the marketing materials, Director of Teaching and Learning, Debra McNair, applied for and was awarded the PBIS \$5,000 grant, gifted by the Ohio - State Support Team Region 8. The grant money was intended to assist districts in increasing the purveyance of PBIS throughout the District.

The general idea behind the branding of the marketing materials, BTP, came from days of district-wide PBIS leadership training through our local State Support Team 8. According to CFCSD’s Coordinator of Exceptional Children, Cameron Lazar, “We identified the overarching expectations of: **Be Respectful, Take Responsibility, and Practice Safety** and adopted them as the main theme for the district.”

The banners that were designed provide a general idea of what BTP is when you enter the buildings. A series of posters was also created and hung at various locations around the buildings to inform our students what those expectations are for that particular area.

## Bolich Middle School Recognized for PBIS Efforts!

As the District continues to implement the PBIS initiative, the Bolich Middle School team has earned an Ohio PBIS Recognition Award! Over the past three years, the Bolich team has worked hard to create a strong PBIS program where they made sure that all students clearly know the expectations that are required at Bolich.

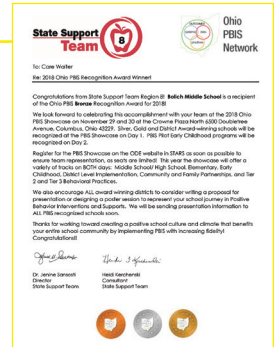
In order to be eligible for the recognition, there are a series of self-assessments that need to be done and that data is sent to the State Support Team (SST) before they will come out and do an evaluation of staff and students. All of the evaluations by SST either met or exceeded the 80% minimum requirement, thus allowing the application to be submitted!

As a part of the PBIS initiative, students are able to earn “Pride” tickets as

acknowledgment for their positive behavior; they can then use the tickets at the ROAR Store. The store is stocked by a number of community donated items, teacher coupons, as well as items donated by the PTA, Cleveland Cavs, University of Akron, and Kent State University. There are also opportunities for students to be included in grade-level activities and/or drawings that sometimes include pizza or ice cream parties. Last year, one Bolich teacher donated two tickets to Cedar Point to be drawn at the end of the school year.

According to assistant principal, Care Walter, “This recognition is possible because of the continued commitment and efforts of ALL of the teachers and staff here at Bolich.”

Congratulations to the Bolich team for all of your outstanding work!



## Richardson Kindergarten “Bootcamp”: SPARK Initiative Helps Students Get Familiar Early

Kindergarten “Bootcamp” officially known as SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) was an amazing opportunity for our students, staff, and families. Spark is a free, family-focused kindergarten readiness program that assists children and their families to prepare for kindergarten.

The SPARK program is sponsored by SEI (Summit Education Initiative) and funded through the AMHA (Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority) and Richardson Elementary principal, Julie Wilson, is a part of the Summit Education Initiative’s Readiness Coalition. This group of educators and professionals from Summit County collaborate throughout the year to provide opportunities to promote Kindergarten Readiness. SPARK is one of the many initiatives that has come out of the readiness coalition. Through Wilson’s work with SEI, SPARK was offered to each district and Richardson piloted the program this year. Since the program was successful, the district hopes to expand this opportunity to all of our buildings next year.

Of the 64 enrolled kindergarteners, 23 students participated in the program. Students were offered the opportunity to participate if they registered prior to July 1. Registered students attended six days for three hours daily prior to the start of the school year. This program was led by two of our Richardson

kindergarten teachers and the students were exposed to daily routines and procedures such as entering the building, recess rules, bathroom procedures, and cafeteria procedures just to name a few. These were practiced and reinforced daily. Students were also exposed to beginning kindergarten standards such as letter and number recognition, fine motor tasks, and social emotional components. While students had many opportunities during SPARK, the main idea behind the program is to assist students with making a smooth transition into the school environment. The SPARK program allowed for this because students had access to Richardson in small groups, without over 350 other students present.

As part of the SPARK program, parents were also given resources for how to assist their students during their first year of school. Even through it is still early in the school year, we are seeing tremendous success with our students who participated in the “bootcamp.”

SEI will be tracking the students from Richardson (and other SPARK programs in Summit County) over the next four years to see if there was any impact on participation in the program.